

C
11/15/01

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

MEMORANDUM

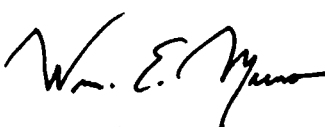
EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



367124

DATE: November 15, 2001

SUBJECT: Status of the Peabody Coal Company's Lynnville Site,
Lynnville, Warrick County, Indiana

FROM: William Muno, Director
Superfund Division 

TO: Thomas Skinner, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Site Description: The 100-acre site is located near Lynnville in southwest Indiana, approximately 20 miles northeast of Evansville. Coal mined at other locations was transported to the site for industrial processing, i.e., sorting and washing. A large gob and slurry pile containing approximately 150 million cubic feet of waste resulted from the processing operations. The waste contains metals such as arsenic, aluminum, cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, manganese, magnesium, nickel and zinc which pose a potential threat to human health and the environment when released. The waste is also acidic with a pH of 1.5 units which facilitates the release of metals from the waste. Approximately 1,537 residents living within a 4-mile radius of the site depend upon groundwater for their drinking water.

Federal Involvement: The site was entered into U.S. EPA's site database, CERCLIS for tracking purposes. U.S. EPA conducted a Screening Site Inspection and issued a report of the inspection in October 1996. The inspection found potential threats to human health and the environment due to acidic drainage from the gob and slurry pile entering Big Creek which flows along the southern edge of the pile. There is also the potential for groundwater contamination as a result of leachate from the pile. Based upon site conditions, the site was ranked as a high priority for action. During an independent audit of U.S. EPA's potential Superfund site list, the General Accounting Office ranked the site as one of six sites in the State of Indiana that should be addressed by Superfund authorities.

In 1998, U.S. EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) agreed that the site required further investigation and that U.S. EPA should be the lead Agency for enforcement and investigation activities. In 1999, U.S. EPA developed a site strategy for the investigation of the site and enforcement activities. After discussions with Peabody Coal Company, IDEM requested that U.S. EPA not implement the site strategy.

Since 1999, U.S. EPA has given IDEM and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

bcc: Matthew Ohl, RRB#2, RRS#4, SR-6J
Terry Branigan, ORC, C-14J
Mary Canavan, P-19J